

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for loading a graphic onto a computer comprising the
5 steps of:
 - entering a search term associated with the graphic into the computer;
 - directing communications between the computer and a selected one of a
plurality of graphic libraries;
 - identifying the graphic in the selected graphic library based on the search
10 term;
 - communicating information associated with the graphic from the selected
graphic library to the computer;
 - displaying the information at the computer;
 - selecting the graphic based on the information; and
 - 15 responsive to selecting the graphic, loading the graphic onto the computer
from the selected graphic library.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the directing step comprises
configuring software to communicate with one of a private graphic library on a
20 local-area network and a public graphic library on a wide-area network.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the directing step comprises
writing an address for the selected graphic library into a configuration database
associated with an operating system of the computer.
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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the directing step further
comprises changing a wide-area network address to a local-area network address
in the event that the selected graphic library comprises a private graphic database
on the local area network.
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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information comprises metadata.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the graphic library is located
5 inside a firewall of an enterprise.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the selected graphic library is
located at an intranet site, and wherein the identifying step comprises generating a
document associated with the graphic and transmitting the document to an active
10 server page of the intranet site.

8. A system for managing graphics comprising:
a first graphic database coupled to a first network;
a second graphic database, coupled to a second network and positioned at
a first location, comprising at least a portion of the first graphic database; and
5 a computer, coupled to the second network and positioned at a second
location, comprising a director configurable to a first state and a second state,
wherein the director directs communication from the computer to the second
graphic database responsive to the first state.

10 9. The system of Claim 8, wherein:
the first state comprises a first address that points to the second database
on the second network; and
the second state comprises a second address that points to the first database
on the first network.

15 10. The system of Claim 8, wherein the system further comprises a
communication path for transferring graphics from the first graphic database to
the second graphic database.

20 11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the communication path is
operable to transfer a physical medium.

25 12. The system of Claim 8, wherein:
the first graphic database comprises a public graphics database;
the second graphic database comprises a private graphics database;
the first network is a wide-area network;
the second network is a local-area network; and
the wide-area network is coupled to the local-area network through a
firewall.

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13. The system of Claim 8, wherein:
the first network is a public network;
the second network is a private network isolated from the public network;
and

5 the director directs search communication between the computer and the
second database,

the system further comprising a second computer, coupled to the public
network, comprising a second director that directs communication between the
second computer and the first database.

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14. The system of Claim 8, wherein:
the first network comprises a wide-area network;
the first database comprises public content;
the second network is an enterprise network; and

15 the second database further comprises enterprise-specific content.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

pointing to an address on an enterprise network;

sending a graphic search request for a graphic to the address;

5 receiving metadata associated with the graphic from the address in response to the graphic search request;

sending a request for the graphic to the address based on the received metadata; and

receiving the requested graphic.

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16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the pointing step further comprises setting a registry key.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the address
15 comprises an active server page and wherein sending the graphic search request comprises sending an extensible markup language document to the active server page.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, further having a
20 computer-executable instruction for performing the step of placing the received graphic on a drawing page.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, further having a
computer-executable instruction for performing the step of receiving a uniform
25 resource locator of the requested graphic, wherein receiving the requested graphic comprises downloading the requested graphic according to the uniform resource locator.

20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the enterprise network is a private network, and wherein the uniform resource locator locates the graphic on a server in the private network.